VICTORY FLASHES

April 29, 1944
Number 33
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Good Morning:

If that greeting isn't timely when mail call arrives and you get around to reading this little epistle, change it to good afternoon or good evening or whatever happens to fit. To those of us who have hours around the clock, it's always morning.

We particularly like morning because that's when the heaviest mail arrives--letters that bring us the good word of what you fellows are doing and how you are coming along. All of us here at College appreciate the time you are taking to drop us an occasional line.

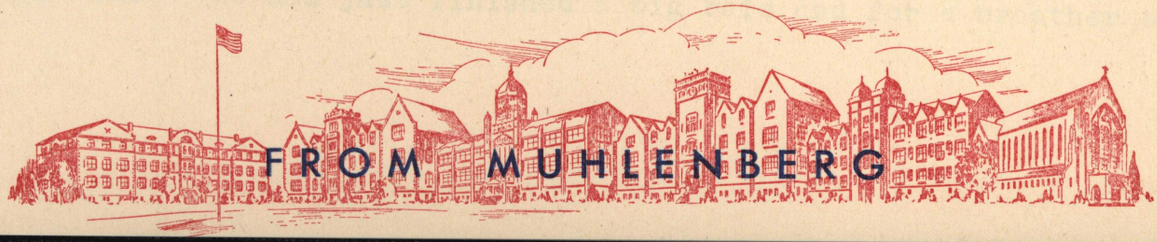
This week we've had some real surprises in the mail bag. When we mailed the first announcement of the Loyalty Fund last week, the Executive Committee of your Alumni Association suggested that the announcements be sent to all our men in service, as well as to alumni still in civilian life, as another means of keeping you in touch with what we are trying to do at Muhlenberg. The surprise lies in the fact that among the first returns were substantial contributions from a dozen or more of you men in uniform. Thanks much. You'll never realize how much your College appreciates the spirit that prompts your gifts--the small ones as well as the large ones.

We've had a busy two weeks on the campus, aside from the usual routine which is busy enough anyway. Track, tennis, and baseball teams swung into action and turned in good reports. The baseball team, for example, played two games, both of them with Lehigh and both times came out on top. Scores were 10 to 4 on April 19 and 10 to 3 on April 22. Rain and cold weather--it has been almost like winter a good bit of the time--forced postponement of other scheduled games.

On top of that, the track team came through with flying colors, defeating City College of New York 85 to 41 in the opener and Swarthmore 68½ to 57½ in the second meet. This week-end the team is entered in the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. The tennis team also came through at the expense of Lehigh, defeating the Engineers 7 to 2 in the opening game of the season.

With all credit to you fellows who are wearing khaki and blue, the Marines have for a long time had the reputation of doing the unpredictable. Well it happened again. The other night, just to keep up one of the traditions of this place, we had the Jeannie Kramer Krause Oratorical contest in which all orations must be on a subject in the field of music. The winner--now hold your breath--was Philip King, Marine Corps private who came to the V-12 program after a year in New Zealand. His subject, just in case you're interested, was "The American Idiom in Music."

You fellows who ate many a good home cooked meal at the Kistlers--that hospitable college boarding and rooming house at the corner of 23rd and Gordon Sts.--will be interested in knowing that after 40 years



of catering to Muhlenberg men, Sallie and Kathryn Kistler are returning to their rural homestead in Kistler's Valley. They've been Muhlenberg's neighbors since 1905 and they'll continue to be its friends, we hope, for many more years.

Now that spring is here--pardon us, we said that before--the landscape architects are busy again. The mall in front of West Hall is being bordered with dogwood and the entire area surrounding the enlarged mess hall is being terraced and planted. It's another of the jobs the Woman's Auxiliary is doing for your College. Within another week or two it will be finished and this campus will be more beautiful than ever.

You'll be interested in knowing that we're due for another wedding this afternoon. Barbara Lucille Benton, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Willard Benton of Kansas City, Kansas, will be the bride of W. Clark Wescoe '41 in the Gideon F. Egner Memorial Chapel. Clark is completing his work as an Army trainee at the Cornell Medical School and his bride, a WAVE, is attending the Mail Specialist school in New York.

There are many other visitors on the campus this week-end, some 40 high school seniors taking the competitive scholarship examinations. You can imagine what Haps is doing--busy as the proverbial mother hen with six broods of chicks. Incidentally, Haps says thanks for those letters you fellows have been writing to him. He says you are to forgive him if he doesn't answer you personally--it's just that the Navy, the Selective Service Board, the College, the Freshman dormitory, his wife and a dozen other things and people keep him tied down to the many jobs he is never able to finish. Yes--he's still the same old Haps who never needs an amplification system to let you know how he feels about anything.

Sorry to have to report that Lieutenant William E. Findlay, flying fortress bombardier who participated in the first daylight bombing of Berlin, has been missing in action since March 23. He was a student at Muhlenberg for one term as a member of the Class of 1942.

According to Lieutenant Arthur Watson '42, whose address is now APO 709, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, it's a misnomer to speak of "Scrapper" Farrell '43. From here on call him "Father" Farrell. Scrapper and Watson went into the Southwest Pacific on the same ship, a vessel without the services of a Catholic chaplain. Not to be outdone, Scrapper substituted insofar as a Catholic layman can. Here is Watson's story: "Word came down over the PA system that there would be a Rosary service in the lounge that particular evening. I was much surprised to see Scrapper before the assembled group about to lead us in an antiphonal recitation of the Rosary prayers which every Catholic child learns as soon as he can mumble. Scrapper started magnificently, but the spotlight began to get him and his memory or his tongue, I don't know which, went astray. There was poor Scrapper floundering away for dear life searching for the words he knew as well as his own name. The congregation, recognizing his plight, made a noble rescue by chiming in at the point where Father Farrell was faltering and put him back on the path whence he had strayed. Scrapper finished in fine style.

We've heard from many Muhlenberg men who manage to meet each other around the world, but we've never heard the equal of Ensign Charlie Moran's '43 story of the reunion he and Farrell and Lieutenant Chuck Garrettson '37 and Ensign Jack Clifford '43 had not so long ago somewhere in New Caledonia. Talking about fellows who run into each other occasionally, Captain Fred Dry '37 had a little visit with Captain Walter Fiers '40 "on the range" somewhere in Ireland. Dry, incidentally, became the father of a daughter, born in Allentown on April 4.

You can imagine how surprised Frank Feltman '42 was when he turned on the radio at his post on the Anzio Beachhead and heard the play by play of the last quarter of the Muhlenberg-DePaul game from Madison Square Garden. "We had just finished a big raid and for a breather the

boys tuned in the radio," he wrote. "Bingo, we got the Madison Square Garden over BBC. Of course, I took a ribbing when we lost." Feltman and Captain John Dry '39 manage to get together every now and then in the Anzio area. Ensign Johnny Umlauf '40 went half way around the world to pick up his ship and now that he has it, he seems quite happy. He is one of three officers on board.

Gerard C. Kloss '39 was graduated from the Navy's Storekeeper's School at Sampson, N.Y., according to a note from the station's public relations office. Pfc. Carl A. Rassler is looking for some Muhlenberg men in Panama. He has found a place where they have good, home-made chocolate cake, just in case any of you in that area are interested. Ensign Dennie Beattie '43 agrees with you fellows who have been there before him--Africa is a surprising and beautiful place.

T. Sergeant Warren Mack '42 took part in the Cape Gloucester campaign and while in the area met Lieutenant Robert Albee '42 and Bruce Bauman '42. Lieutenant Jack Bader '40 enjoys England--all except the beer and says he is thankful to "have been a part of the spirit of Muhlenberg." You still are, Jack--and so are the rest of you men who know more about Muhlenberg than just the name.

From Bill and Al Laubach '42, now stationed at Camp Polk, La. with an M.P. unit, we learn that Al Pierce, of the same class, is in India and still is as crazy as ever. Both of them are quite willing to give the South back to the Indians. They're still loyal to Northampton. Joe McKeon '43 is assigned to the dental school at the University of Pennsylvania and has the company of five other Muhlenberg men, Sam Boyer, Ray Peters, George Nittolo, Frank Saul, and Martin Schemella.

"Boy, what I'd give for a glimpse of Muhlenberg's fair acres," writes Private Tippy Johnson '31 from Camp Stewart, Ga. "Would be a horrible thought to think a loss of this war would mean a loss of Muhlenberg for our kids." Johnson says that outside of being cruelly torn from his home and fireside, he is living the life of one citizen of Eirie, a gay bumpkin known widely as Riley. He reports it's the easiest life he has experienced since his "emergence from diapers."

Ed Minka '30, almost a contemporary of Johnson, finally crashed through with a letter from Camp Young, Calif. If you write to him, you will be interested in his story about the elderly Jewish gentleman who had a lengthy conversation with a soldier concerning the service ribbon he was wearing. Robert Mumma '44 is in a medical training unit at Camp Grant, Ill. He says he finds many things he learned at Muhlenberg helpful. "Among the especially useful things are: Bull Ritter's gym and commando course; first aid; and the excellent background I got in the biologies."

Russell Beazley '34 is an instructor at Bainbridge, Md., according to Marty Fels '42. Myron Kabol '42 is also on duty down there. Bill Birmingham '43, who once was our man Friday in the general office is now in the Army unit at Hahnemann Medical College. Lieutenant Robert B. Rowland '41 is stationed at Ft. Jackson, S.C. where he is attached to the Station Hospital. "From now on," he said in his letter enclosing a check for the Loyalty Fund, "Muhlenberg can count on me every time."

Pfc. Richard Woodring '44, whose Loyalty Fund contribution came in from Camp Pickett, Va., was stationed near Boston when Muhlenberg played DePaul in Madison Square Garden. He made a trip to New York with the intention of seeing the game, but found he had been confused about the date. Pvt. Herbert M. Gorin '35, now on duty along the coast of Maine, broke into the higher brackets at the office of dependency benefits, when he became the father of a candidate for the class of 1968 on March 12.

One of our regular correspondents in the past few weeks has been Bert Levinstone '42, who keeps us informed on the status of the boys at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Harold Helfrich '44 is still keeping us informed on what is going on in India. He says he'll never look at another Tarzan picture after seeing the jungles as they really are.

Here are the promotions we've heard about recently: LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Wilmer Cressman '42, LIEUTENANT Burton Sexton '42, CORPORAL Nathan Kline '46, CORPORAL G. Weir Cressman '42, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Harold Nehf '37, SECOND LIEUTENANT Howard S. Yarus '44, CAPTAIN Samuel W. Albright '29, LIEUTENANT John F. Maxwell '44, LIEUTENANT Charles L. Garrettson '37 (Navy), CAPTAIN H.E. Everett '34, SECOND LIEUTENANT Allen Uhler '38, MAJOR Frederick Fairclough '32, SERGEANT Henry Eisenhart '42, and LIEUTENANT Joseph B. Walker '43.

Our service roster is still growing--1,094 men in uniform is the count as this letter goes into the mail. Here are the names that have been added during the past two weeks.

Myron P. Kabo, '42, Hosp. Corps School, USNTS, Bainbridge, Md.
Lt. Francis A. Boyer, O-1178717, APO #3, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Ensign George W. Marshall '39, USNR, Ft. Schuyler, New York, N.Y.
SC3/c Paul L. Steinberg, USCG, Constitution Wharf, Boston, Mass.
Henry W. Mattes '28, Address Wanted
Pvt. Raymond R. Hefter, 15th T.S.S., Brks. 407, Chanute Field, Ill.
Lt. Harvey D. Groff, Finnery Gen. Hosp., X-Ray Dept., Thomasville, Ga.
Pvt. Bernard W. Grager 791 TSS Bk. 857, Johnson Seymour Fd. Goldsboro, N
S/Sgt. James M. Coyne, APO 405, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Capt. George W. Heintzelman '33, Indiantown Gap, Pa.
George B. Krikley, Univ. of Pa. Dental Sch., 40th & Spruce Sts., Phila
A/S Leon Rosenberg, Co. 541, G 21U, USNTS, Sampson, N.Y.
Pvt. Irving Shipkin, 12th Regt. Co. B, T 383, Camp Lee, Va.
Pvt. Jerry Angert Co. A, Brks. 1504 3587 SU, Ft. Benj. Harrison, Ind.
A/S Clarence G. Troxell, Box 1289, Yale Stn., New Haven, Conn.
A/S Kaye M. Hartman, USCGR, USCG Trng. Stn., Palm Beach, Fla.
George Bibighaus, '45 Address Wanted
Lt. Richard D. Bausch, 303 Med. Bn., APO 78, Camp Pickett, Va.

Some of the new APO addresses received since we wrote you the last time are listed below. If you want any complete addresses, drop us a line and they'll be dispatched with all possible haste--and that's really fast.

Lt. Burton Sexton '42
Cpl. Nathan Kline '46
Cpl. G. Weir Cressman '42
Lt. Arthur R. Chatten '29
T/Sgt. Warren Mack '42
Capt. Oliver S. Schadt '37
Pvt. Elton W. Samuels '46
Lt. Charles L. Garrettson '37
Cpl. Joseph Simpson '38
Sgt. Arthur T. Jenkins '42
Pfc. Wellace J. Eberts '43
Pvt. Alfred Pierce '42
Cpl. Earl Lindwall '40
Lt. F. Lee Deitrick '39
Ensign Denny B. Beattie '43
Capt. Donald L. Warmouth '34
Lt. Samuel Shimer '32
Capt. H.E. Everitt '34
Lt. Arthur Watson '42
Pvt. Frank Feltman '42

Whenever we get to the bottom of the fourth page of this letter, it's time to stop. What we'd really like to do is write a personal letter to each one of you. That would require a staff of 22 assistants and 43 secretaries--and you know that's impossible. So this little mimeographed letter--it is a letter--will have to suffice. I hope all of you will consider it just as personal as though I scribbled it in my own unintelligible scrawl. Until the next time--the best of luck to all of you.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office